Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BOARD

OF THE

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

1918

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EDMONTON:
Printed by J. W. Jeffery, King's Printer
1919

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

https://archive.org/details/ableg_33398004838412

EDMONTON, ALBERTA, FEB. 4, 1919.

TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
Province of Alberta.
Edmonton.

Sir:—

In accordance with Section 19 of "The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1918," the Workmen's Compensation Board has the honour to submit herewith a report of their proceedings up to and including December 31, 1918.

JOHN T. STIRLING, Chairman.
W. F. McNEILL, Commissioner.
J. A. KINNEY, Commissioner.

EDMONTON, FEB. 4, 1919.

TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL:—

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1918, was passed at the 1918 session of the Legislature, and became effective on August 1, 1918, in so far as it applies to industries coming within the scope of Schedule 1, and on January 1, 1919, in so far as it applies to industries coming within the scope of Schedule 2. Practically all industries where manual labour is employed are now within the scope of this Act, with the exception of railways, the farming industry and labour casually employed. When any industry comes within the scope of this Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act which became effective in 1908 is automatically repealed, in so far as it applies to that industry.

On August 22, 1917, a Commission, composed of John T. Stirling, Chairman, Walter F. McNeill, and James A. Kinney, was appointed by Order-in-Council to investigate conditions as they existed in the Province at that time, with reference to compensation for injuries to workmen. This Commission submitted a report in the form of a suggested Act with the evidence collected, attached. This report, among other things, recommended that all industries should be brought within the scope of the Act, and all suggestions contained therein were practically adopted, with the exception that employment in connection with railways was exempted.

On April 29, 1918, The Workmen's Compensation Board, which was composed of the same personnel as the Commission above referred to, was appointed and on May 13, 1918, Mr. F. A. Noble was appointed Secretary by the Board, and proceeded to arrange for necessary data being collected to enable the Board to arrive at a decision as to what premiums should be charged in connection with the industries coming within Schedule 1.

For the purpose of creating a fund, the sum of $5,000.00 was obtained as a loan from the Provincial Government, this sum being repaid to the Government on July 25, 1918 with six per cent interest.

An assessment was made on July 17, 1918, of three per cent. on the average monthly pay-rolls of the industries coming within the scope of Schedule 1, using as a basis the twelve months ending May 31, 1918, and since that time assessments have been made every two months at the rate of three per cent. on the average monthly pay-rolls. The total amount collected by assessments, with interest on same, from the commencement of the Act up to and including December 31, 1918, was $94,995.04. Of this amount $13,441.64 was expended in payment of claims, $269.80 on medical aid and $10,378.82 in payment of expenses and equipment, leaving a balance of $70,904.78. Of this balance $30,000.00 was invested in Dominion of Canada 1918 Victory Bonds, leaving a balance in the bank on December 31, 1918, of $40,904.78.

The Board is indebted to the Provincial Government for the use of office accommodation which it occupies in the Qu'Appelle Building, Edmonton. The furnishings of this office, however, including furniture and other equipment have been paid for by the Board.

During the period the Act has been in operation up to and including December 31, 1918, there were 943 accidents reported to the Board and of these 362 were finally disposed of by payment of compensation,

284 on which no compensation was payable, leaving 297 to be finally disposed of.

Further particulars regarding the proceedings of the Board will be found by referring to the following tables.

The total amount of assessments made against employers under Schedule 1 was $96,322.61 of which $94,638.34 was collected, leaving a balance on December 31, 1918, of $1,684.27 to be collected.

The following regulations have been made from time to time by the Board and are now in effect:

1. In addition to the report required to be forwarded to the Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 62, subsection 2 of the Act, the physician or sugeon attending any workman shall forward to the Board progress reports on the first and fifteenth days of each month during the time such injured workman is unable to resume work as a result of injuries sustained by him as stated in the report first mentioned herein, and shall also forward to the Board a final report within three days after said workman is, in his opinion, able to resume work. All reports required to be provided in accordance with this regulation shall be on a form which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.
2. Every employer in addition to the report required to be forwarded to the Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 62 of the Act shall also forward, on a form prescribed by the Board, within 24 hours after the same comes to his knowledge, notification that the injured workman has returned to work, or is, in his opinion, able to return to work.
3. All claims for compensation, in accordance with Section 42, subsection 3, shall be made on forms which may be prescribed from time to time by the Board.
4. Every employer included in The Workmen's Compensation Act shall keep posted in a conspicuous place on the premises where the work is carried on, where it may be seen, such notices as the board may, from time to time, require to be posted.
5. No payment under Section 45 of The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1918, will be considered by the Board unless sanction has been given by an officer of the Board for an operation to be performed or other treatment to be given, or unless it can be proved, to the satisfaction of the Board, that, in an extreme emergency case, it is necessary to perform such operation or give such treatment before such sanction could be obtained.

We take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the manner in which those who come within the scope of the Act have given us their cordial assistance. Unfortunately, however, it has been necessary, on several occasions, to threaten action against certain medical doctors for failure to comply with the provisions of the Act with reference to reports. This condition has, however, improved very considerably and wit hthe hearty co-operation and assistance which we now appear to be having, it is not likely that any further action along these lines will be necessary.

Since January 1, 1919, the members of the staff have been engaged to a great extent in obtaining particulars regarding industries coming within the scope of Schedule 2.

It will be noted that the tables given in this report are as much as possible in the same form as the tables given in the report of The Workmen's Compensation Board of the Province of Ontario, so that these tables in each of the Provinces in Canada should be standardized as much as possible for the purpose of comparison.

As the Act did not become effective until August 1, 1918, where the year 1918 is referred to in the following tables, it means the period from August 1, to December 31, 1918, inclusive.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1918

Number of employers within the scope of the Act	264
Number of employees within the scope of the Act	10,259
Number of accidents reported	943
Number of accidents reported and for which no claims were made	281
Number of accidents for which claims were made	662
Number of claims which have been finally disposed of by payment of compensation	362
Number of claims which have been finally disposed of without payment of compensation	284
Number of claims on which further payments have to be made	75
Number of accidents reported which are still under consideration and on which no payment has been made	222
Total amount of pay-rolls on which assessments were made	$ 5,540,512.23
Total amount of assessments made	96,322.61
Total amount of assessments collected	94,638.34
Total amount of assessments still to be collected	1,634.27
Amount of expenditure in connection with fatal accidents	379.35
Amount of expenditure in connection with non-fatal accidents	13,062.29

TABLE I.

SALARIES OF STAFF WITH NAMES AND POSITIONS, DECEMBER 31, 1918

Name	Position	Salary
F. D. Noble	Secretary	$200.00 per month
H. M. Johnson	Chief Clerk	75.00 " "
M. E. McCrum	Claims Clerk	60.00 " "
E. Reith	Pay-Roll Clerk	60.00 " "
D. Grant	Stenographer	60.00 " "

TABLE 2.

ANALYSIS OF ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES INCLUDING EQUIPMENT DURING 1918

Salaries of Members of Board	$ 3,123.32
Salaries of Staff	2,457.07
Travelling expenses of Board and Staff	558.70
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	2,292.75
Telephone and Telegrams	1.10
Permanent Equipment	1,370.05
Postage and Express	469.00
Interest on Loan from Provincial Government	59.18
Miscellaneous	47.65
Total	$ 10,378.82

TABLE 3.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE—SCHEDULE 1 BY CLASSES FOR YEAR 1918

Class	Assessments Collected on Pay-Rolls	Interest on Class Funds	Total	Compensation Paid	Medical Aid Paid	Administration Expenses and Equipment	Compensation estimated for continu'g dis'b'l'ties and outst'd'g accidents	Total	Balance (Provisional)
1.	$ 94,062.56	$ 355.01	$ 94,417.57	$ 13,441.64	$ 269.80	$ 10,378.82	$ 15,920.00	$40,010.26	$ 54,407.31
2.	179.21	.68	179.89						179.89
3.	269.70	.91	270.61						270.61
4.	41.87	.10	41.97						41.97
5.	85.00		85.00						85.00
Total	$94,638.34	$ 356.70	$ 94,995.04	$ 13,441.64	$ 269.80	$ 10,378.82	$ 15,920.00	$40,010.26	$ 54,984.78

Class

1. Employment in or about Coal Mines.
2. Employment in or about Coke Ovens.
3. Employment in or about Briquetting Plants.
4. Employment in or about Mines other than Coal.
5. Employees of Workmen.

TABLE 4.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS DURING 1918

Receipts		Payments	
Assessments Collected	$ 94,638.34	Compensation Paid	$ 13,441.64
Received from Interest on Funds	356.70	Medical Aid Paid	269.80
Loan from Provincial Government	5,000.00	Administration expenses and equipment	10,378.82
		Payment of Loan to Provincial Government	5,000.00
		Invested in Dominion of Canada 1918 Victory Bonds	30,000.00
		Cash in Imperial Bank	40,904.78
Total	$ 99,995.04	Total	$ 99,995.04

TABLE 5.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1918

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash in Imperial Bank	$ 40,904.78	Compensation estimated for continuing disabilities and outstanding accidents	$ 15,920.00
Dominion of Canada 1918 Victory Bonds	30,000.00	Balance at credit of Classes Schedule 1	54,984.78
Total	$ 70,904.78	Total	$ 70,904.78

TABLE 6.

PARTICULARS OF INVESTMENTS DECEMBER 31, 1918

Security	To Yield	Term	Par Value	Cost Value
Dominion of Canada 1918 Victory Bonds.....	5½%	15 Years	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE

Having conducted a continuous audit of the books and accounts of The Workmen's Compensation Board, Alberta, to the 31st December 1918, including the examination of receipts from assessments and all other sources; the orders of the Board, bank cheques, and other vouchers for payment of compensation, and all disbursements; having verified the bank transactions and balances, and examined the securities, I hereby certify that the books have been carefully and correctly kept, and that the Analysis of Administration Expenses, including Equipment, during 1918 (Table 2), the Provisional Statement of Income and Expenditure Schedule 1, by Classes for Year 1918 (Table 3), the Statements of Receipts and Payments during 1918 (Table 4), the Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1918 (Table 5), and the Particulars of Investments December 31, 1918 (Table 6), in my opinion correctly set forth the financial transactions of the Board, the Statements referred to being in accordance with the Books.

E. W. BURLEY,
Provincial Auditor.

Edmonton, February 12, 1919.

TABLE 7.

WAGES AND FULL YEAR WORKERS, SCHEDULE 1 BY CLASSES FOR YEAR 1918

Class	Wage Expenditure (Estimated)	Number of Workers Employed during December 1918
1.	$ 7,095,725.14	10,197
2.	10,749.50	11
3.	22,212.55	13
4.		
5.	19,000.00	38
	Total....$ 7,147,687.19	Total 10,259

TABLE 8.

COMPENSATION AWARDED AND ACCIDENTS FOR WHICH COMPENSATION WAS PAID DURING 1918.

Amount of Compensation awarded during 1918—Schedule 1 ..... $ 13,441.64

Number of Accidents for which Compensation was paid during 1918—Schedule 1

	Deaths	Permanent Total Disability	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Temporary Partial Disability	Total
Finally Disposed of	....	....	6	356	....	362
Partially Disposed of	3	....	1	71	....	75
Total	3	....	7	427	....	437

TABLE 9.

NUMBER OF INJURIES TO MINORS AND THOSE OF ADVANTAGED AGE

Age	Deaths	Permanent Total Disability	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Temporary Partial Disability	Total
16			1	4		5
17	1			10		11
18				10		10
19				6		6
20				1		1
Total	1		1	31		33
60				1		1
61				1		1
Total				2		2

TABLE 10.

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS FINALLY DISPOSED OF IN 1918 SCHEDULE 1, BY CLASSES

Class	Deaths	Permanent Total Disability	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Temporary Partial Disability	Total
1			6	640		646
2						
3						
4						
5						
Total			6	640		646

TABLE 11.

MONTH OF OCCURRENCE OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED DURING 1918, SCHEDULE 1

Month	Death	Permanent Total Disability	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Temporary Partial Disability	Total
Aug.	2		4	195		201
Sept.	1		2	207		210
Oct.			1	206		207
Nov.	1			132		133
Dec.	1			191		192
Total	5		7	931		943

TABLE 12.
LOCALITY OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED DURING 1918, SCHEDULE 1.

Districts	Death	Perm. Total Disblty.	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Tempry Partial Disblty.	Total
Crow's Nest Pass	2		2	299		303
Pincher Creek				1		1
Lethbridge	1			126		127
Magrath						
Milk River						
Taber				29		29
Bow Island						
Medicine Hat				2		2
Aldersyde						
High River						
Canmore	1			31		32
Banff			1	12		13
Drumheller				166		166
Big Valley						
Brazeau			1	55		56
Brooks						
Hanna				2		2
Lacombe			1	2		3
Trochu						
Three Hills				1		1
Carbon						
Battle River						
Camrose				1		1
Tofield				1		1
Clover Bar				45		45
Edmonton				26		26
Namao				5		5
Cardiff			2	8		10
Wabamun						
Pembina				5		5
Jasper Park				73		73
Yellowhead Pass				19		19
Mountain Park	1			22		23
Total	5		7	931		943

TABLE 13.

TIME LOSS AND AVERAGE AGE IN CLAIMS FINALLY DISPOSED OF DURING 1918, SCHEDULE 1, BY CLASSES

Class	Death		Permanent Total Disability		Permanent Partial Disability		Temporary Total Disability		Temporary Partial Disability		All Cases
	Total Days	Average Days	Total Days	Average Days	Total Days	Average Days	Total Days	Average Days	Total Days	Average Days	Average Age
1.					238	39.66	7072	11.05			33.25
2.											
3.											
4.											
5.											
Total					238	39.66	7072	11.05			33.25

TABLE 14.

ALLEGIANCE OF INJURED WORKERS WHO HAVE CLAIMED COMPENSATION AND WHOSE CLAIMS HAVE BEEN FINALLY DISPOSED OF BY PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION DURING 1918 **Schedule 1.**

Allegiance To	Death	Permanent Total Disability	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Temporary Partial Disability	Total	Allegiance To
Austria			1	81		82	Austria
Belgium				16		16	Belgium
Bermuda				1		1	Bermuda
Bohemia				2		2	Bohemia
Denmark				1		1	Denmark
France				4		4	France
Finland				1		1	Finland
Galicia				3		3	Galicia
Great Britain			3	131		134	Great Britain
Germany				5		5	Germany
Hungary				2		2	Hungary
Italy			1	53		54	Italy
Montenegro				1		1	Montenegro
Macedonia				1		1	Macedonia
Norway				1		1	Norway
Poland			1	10		11	Poland
Roumania				4		4	Roumania
Ruthenia				1		1	Ruthenia
Russia				15		15	Russia
Serbia				1		1	Serbia
Sweden				1		1	Sweden
United States				15		15	United States
Ukrania				1		1	Ukrania
Not Mentioned				5		5	Not Mentioned
Total			6	356		362	

TABLE 15.

Week of Termination of Temporary Disabilities in Accidents Finally Disposed of During 1918 by Payment of Compensation

Schedule 1.

In	55	Cases	Disability	Terminated	within	1			week	after	Accident
"	125	"	"	"	"	1	to	2	weeks	"	"
"	78	"	"	"	"	2	"	3	"	"	"
"	39	"	"	"	"	3	"	4	"	"	"
"	28	"	"	"	"	4	"	5	"	"	"
"	11	"	"	"	"	5	"	6	"	"	"
"	10	"	"	"	"	6	"	7	"	"	"
"	5	"	"	"	"	7	"	8	"	"	"
"	3	"	"	"	"	8	"	9	"	"	"
"	1	Case	"	"	"	10	"	11	"	"	"
"	1	"	"	"	"	12	"	13	"	"	"

TABLE 16.

NATURE OF INJURIES, 1918. SCHEDULE 1 BY CLASSES. TEMPORARY DISABILITY CASES FINALLY DISPOSED OF

Class	Bruises, Contusions, Abrasions	Cuts and Lacerations	Fractures	Sprains, Strains and Wrenching	Crushes	Eye Injuries	Burns and Scalds	Wounds	Infection	Miscel-laneous	Total
1	299	110	16	69	57	42	5	20	12	10	640
2											
3											
4											
5											
Total	299	110	16	69	57	42	5	20	12	10	640

TABLE 17.

PERMANENT DISABILITY CASES FINALLY DISPOSED OF

	Right	Left	Total Cases
Amputations:			
One Finger		4	4
Thumb	1		1
Loss of Eye	1		1
Total	2	4	6

TABLE 18.

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS FINALLY DISPOSED OF DURING 1918 Schedule 1.

	Death	Permanent Total Disability	Permanent Partial Disability	Temporary Total Disability	Temporary Partial Disability	Total
Fall of Coal or Rock			1	260		261
Fall of Timber				19		19
Strain Caused by Lifting				46		46
Crushed			3	101		104
Machinery or Tools			2	89		91
By Falling				55		55
Injured by Blow				23		23
Run Over by Cars				22		22
Explosions				3		3
Flying Sparks				3		3
Injured by Horses				8		8
Over-exertion				4		4
Fly Bites				3		3
Miscellaneous				4		4
Total			6	640		646

TABLE 19.

BLOOD POISONING CASES FINALLY DISPOSED OF DURING 1918 Schedule 1.

Developed 1 Day after injury	1
Total	1

TABLE 20.

DEATH CASES DURING 1918. Schedule 1.

Compensation paid including funeral expenses	$ 304.35
Funeral expenses only	75.00
Total	$ 379.35
Number of cases reported	5

RELATIONSHIP AND RESIDENCE OF DEPENDANTS

	Total Dependants	Partial Dependants	Resident in Alberta	Not Resident in Alberta but Resident in Canada	Not Resident in Canada
Widow and Child	2		2		
Widow only	2		1		1
Father and Mother		4	2		2
Total	4	4	5		3

TIME BETWEEN INJURY AND DEATH.

5 Workmen Survived less than 1 Day after accident.